

LESSON 4

Objectives

Students will:

1. Dance the *brinle*, a French folk dance.
2. Recognize the division of dance music into musical themes and phrases.
3. Identify the sound of the concertina.
4. Locate France on a map of Europe.

Materials

1. Recording: *Dances of the World's Peoples, European Folk Dances, Volume 2* (Folkways FD 6502)
2. Map of Europe

Procedures

1. Play the recording of the *brinle*, an old circle dance. The concertina (a small accordion) plays the melody, and a second, larger accordion plays the accompaniment. Keep the steady beat by clapping softly with two fingers.
2. Teach students to dance the *brinle*. The formation is a circle, with hands joined (as shown in figure 16). In the introduction, students bend their knees and bounce in place for sixteen beats. Follow these patterns for the dance, and repeat until the music's end:

Part 1 Move in the circle—eight running steps to the right and then eight running steps to the left—for sixteen beats.

Part 2 Standing in place, step and kick for sixteen beats, as shown in figure 17.

Part 3 Step and kick, moving into the circle for eight beats and out of the circle for eight beats, as shown in figure 18.

Part 4 Each dancer stands in place and alternately points the left foot over the right foot and the right foot over the left foot, as shown in figure 19.

Repeat these steps as the dance music continues.

3. Locate France on the map of Europe. Cousins of the *brinle* are found throughout France and in many parts of Europe. Along the Pyrenees in the south, the Basques dance a similar circle dance called the *sardana*, and throughout most of Europe, people enjoy the communal spirit of dancing in a circle.

Figure 16. *Brinle* formation

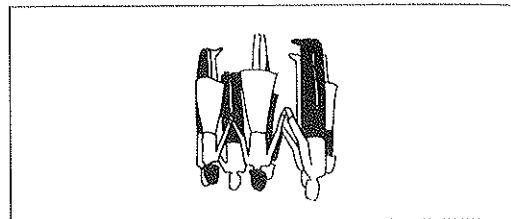


Figure 17. Procedure for Part 2

